

The Monthly A·C·E

*The Official Bulletin of the Association of Clandestine
Radio Enthusiasts*

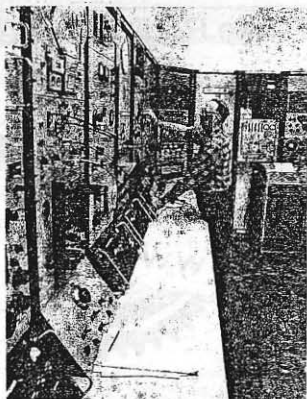
Since 1982 • June, 2002

FCC FUNNIES

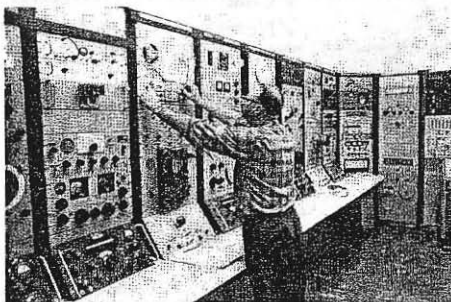
RECENT ACTIONS OF THE FCC'S MONITORING SQUAD



Information from the teletype is passed to the monitor on duty so that he may take swift action in coordination with other FCC monitoring stations.



Monitoring is a 24 hour job. This monitor makes an adjustment while in the process of measuring the "drift" in frequency of a radio signal.



A tape recording is often made to obtain the particulars on a violation.

The Managing Editor's Page

By Harry Helms

P. O. Box 335, Ridgecrest, CA, 93556-0335

E-mail: ak6c@earthlink.net

Tom Giella, KN4LF, reports a pirate from the Kissimmee, FL, area on 1620 kHz, using the ID "Radio Peenam." It's operating 24 hours a day with programming in what seems to be Creole; the signal is overmodulated and distorted. The FCC has been alerted, and so far... nothing! Tom's web site is at www.kn4lf.com.

Another Florida pirate is reported by Greg Myers of Clearwater, via the National Radio Club e-mailing list. "KQV-1610" announces that it is "broadcasting from deep in the Everglades" and has a good signal most evenings at Greg's QTH. Greg says that this station should be audible outside of Florida as the signal is often good at his location.

While DX will be poor during the summer, July 4 is usually a big day for pirate radio. Try listening on the evening of July 3 and during the day on July 4. And I invite all pirate ops to send advance notice of their operations via the ACE pirate radio list (see page 13).

Another great job by the editors this month! Why not send them a report for the next issue?

HARRY

FRN

THE FREE RADIO NETWORK

"Pirate Radio Invades the World Wide Web!"



- ✓ Audio Clips
- ✓ Photos
- ✓ QSLs
- ✓ The ACE
- ✓ Chat
- ✓ News
- ✓ The Grapevine
- ✓ Over 1000 Links

DIALOGS June 2002

Lee Reynolds, 53 Unity Springs Road, Lempster, NH 03605-3130

Email: lreynolds@spamcop.net

ICQ# 60166326/4139354

(Next deadline for submissions: June 22nd, 2002)

LATE LOGS

KMUD

- 04/15/02, 0215, 6947A - mx - compupop. (ZR-AZ 333)

Obscene Numbers Station

- 04/20/02, *0045-0052*, 6950U - the parody of a real numbers station with obscenities and slang substituted for numbers makes the rounds. Off w/"Eat Me!" (Pse QSL JS-NE333)

Radio Nonsense

- 04/20/02, 0023, 6950U - rebroadcast of an old show. (ZR-AZ 333)

The Voice of the New World Order

- 04/20/02, 0103, 6950U - repeat broadcast. (ZR-AZ 333)

WCB

- 04/21/02, 2355, 6950A - mx - Jazz. (ZR-AZ 443)

UNID

- 04/20/02, 0049, 6950U - sounded like James Brown repeating the word "orgasm?" (ZR-AZ 233)

FROM ACROSS THE POND

Alfa Lima International (Hoogveen)

- 05/04/02, 1550-1600+, 21900A - running propagation test on both 15070 and 21900. Poor results. (JS-NE)
- 05/04/02, 2149-0330+, 15070A - mx - Pop. (ZR-AZ 233)(JS-NE)
- 05/10/02, 0239-0254, 15070A - mx - various. Alfred with address and email announcements. (MT-WT 233)
- 05/10/02, 2119-2129+, 15070A - mx - Dance. Host Alfred talking about email received and web pages. (BF-PA 433)(MT-WT 233)
- 05/11/02, 0025-0400+, 15070A - mx - "Bonnie and Clyde," "Tears of a Clown." Much talk. (ZR-AZ 333)(RD-PA)

NORTH/SOUTH AMERICAN LOGGINGS

Captain Morgan (ACE/FRN)

- 05/04/02, 0350-0400, 6950A - mx - R&B, James Brown. Twilight Zone theme used as bridge. (JS-NE 222)

Deliverance Radio (None)

- 05/05/02, 0245-0306*, 6955U - mx - "Dueling Banjos." Much ranting, hard to make out. Ad for the Deliverance "Squeal like a pig!" alarm. Tape of old show. (AF 132)(ZR-AZ 443)(JS-NE 444)(WT-MI 133)

JBCN - see WHYP below.

KMUD ()

- 05/04/02, 0157-0410, 6947A - mx - various inc. Dire Straits. (ZR-AZ 323)
- 05/11/02, 0300-0338, 6925A - mx - Jefferson Airplane, Native American flute. (ZR-AZ 322)
- 05/17/02, 0150-0400+, 6925A - mx - various. (ZR-AZ 222)

NOEL (None)

- 05/05/02, 0215-0235*, 6955U – mx – Christmas themed. News and sports from the North Pole. (AF 232) (Sounds like someone was replaying a tape of this station – which is normally only heard during the Christmas holidays.) (ZR-AZ 433)(JS-NE 444)

Paragon Radio (None)

- 05/02/02, 2259-2337*, 6955U – program of one line epigrams with Jazz mx background. (AF 131)(Pse QSL JS-NE 322)

Radio Bingo (Merlin)

- 05/03/02, 0152-0215*, 6950A – mx – Right Said Fred. Bingo caller, Christine Taylor, John Arthur is the big winner. Off with Steve Anderson clip segueing into UPMB show at 0215. (JS-NE 333)

Radio Neptune Universal Service (Blue Ridge Summit)

- 05/20/02, 0000-0417*, 6955U – mx – George Harrison. Frequency drifting. Off at 0417 after "All Things Must Pass." (AF 242)

Radio Nonsense (Belfast?)

- 05/12/02, 0140-0148, 6951U – mx – Beatles. (WS-TN 333)

Seattle Free Radio (seattlefreeradio@yahoo.com)

- 04/26/02, 0137-0342, 6935U – clips of American pop and TV culture. (ZR-AZ 332)
- 04/30/02, 0240-0345+, 0000 – lots of comedy. (ZR-AZ 332)
- 05/02/02, 0226-0425+, 6945U – various mx and the "Hour of Slack." (ZR-AZ 433)
- 05/04/02, 0306-0537*, 6945U – mx – Focus, C&W. Comedy, mention of Free Radio and into national anthem. Off with TV test tone. (ZR-AZ 333)(JS-NE 322)
- 05/09/02, 0345-0500+, 6945U (ZR-AZ 222)
- 05/15/02, 0240-0515+, 6950U – mx/comedy/Slack. (ZR-AZ 323)

Shadow Radio (the_shadow6950@hotmail.com)

- 05/11/02, 0310+, 6950U – program with a "Star Wars" theme. QRM from Captain Ron who couldn't hear the signal at 0315. (Pse QSL JS-NE)

Sycko Radio (None that work)

- 04/25/02, 0157-0208+, 6955U – general craziness. "Mr. Sycko will blow you away!" "Andy Griffith" clips. (AF 333)(JS-NE 322)
- 04/27/02, 0219, 6955A. (MT-WI 144)
- 04/29/02, 0120-0124, 6955U – mx – hard rock, circus. And dead air.... (JS-NE)
- 05/10/02, 0133-0209*, 6955U – mx – Afroman, Black Sabbath. Other weirdness. Abrupt off with "Waaazuup?" (AF 322)(JS-NE 323)

The Voice of Captain Ron Shortwave (captainronswr@yahoo.com)

- 05/11/02, 0315-0353*0, 6950U – mx – Electronica. A conversation with "Mysterious X," praise for WHYP, USB is the manliest of all modes. The Captain is overjoyed to be back on the air! (AF 222)(ZR-AZ 222)(JS-NE 322)

The Voice of the New World Order (vonwoun@yahoo.com)

- 04/27/02, 0213-0243, 6955U – very poor signal, AI couldn't make anything else out. Woody reported NWO airing a recruitment ad for the Illuminati and news on the government's control of the weather. "Astronomy Domine" by Pink Floyd. (AF 131)(WS-TN 333)(ZR-AZ 333)
- 05/05/02, 0015-0037*, 6950U – repeat broadcast. (ZR-AZ 333)(JS-NE 333)
- 05/10/02, 0017-0111*, 6950U – mx – Floyd's "Echoes." New show with more plans to rule the world. Jay Smilkstein revealed as NWO agent at Winterfest. On again at 0218. (ZR-AZ 333)(JS-NE 333)(WT-MI 122)("What are we going to do today, NWO?" "Why, what we always try to do, Pinky....")
- 05/12/02, 0200-0210, 6951U – mx – Mike and the Mechanics. More news for the distrustful. (WS-TN 333)(ZR-AZ 323)

United Patriot Militia Bingo (Merlin)

- 04/23/02, 0210-0243+, 6925U – clips of Colonel Anderson. Militia Babe. Comments about the geomagnetic storm. (ZR-AZ 322)(JS-NE)
- 04/24/02, 0132-0243+, 6950A – mx – Madness. Live from the Pulaski County Fair. "America's Most Wanted." "That's right, that crazy deleted is on again!" Sal Ammoniac clip. (AF 423)(JS-NE 433)
- 05/01/02, 0056, 6950U – mx – Beatles, Madness. Jay makes an appearance. The ball machine is broken. (AF 333)
- 05/01/02, 0144-0217*, 6950A – more Steve Anderson. John Walsh with a Steve Anderson update, aerial surveillance of the Anderson family compound. (ZR-AZ 222)(JS-NE 433)
- 05/02/02, 0202, 6950A – "UPMB's Most Wanted." (MT-WI 333)
- 05/03/02, 0215-0303*, 6950A – Follow-on to a Radio Bingo broadcast asking listeners to log the station so he knows who's listening. Will be on three times a night if he has to. (JS-NE 433)

- 05/10/02, 0254, 6925A – "UPMB's Most Wanted" repeat. (MT-WI 233)
- 05/11/02, 0229-0319, 6925/6951A – mx – 80's with a dedication to Alex Draper. "finish up cover on helmet." Steve Anderson spoofs. More on the Croquet Tournament. Followed on WHYP. (WS-TN 444)(RD-PA)(JS-NE 333)

WBZO (None)

- 04/27/02, 0336, 6950U – mx – Beatles. Host singing along with the music. (AF 131)

WCB (Unknown)

- 04/22/02, 0030-0111, 6950A – mx – Swing. IDed as "Radio Count Basie." (ZR-AZ 444)
- 04/27/02, 2242-2300, 6950A – mx – Swing. (ZR-AZ 333)
- 04/27/02, 2325, 6950A – back on with more Swing. (ZR-AZ 333)
- 05/01/02, 0154-0200, 6950A – more cool Swing. Briefly back on at 0249. (ZR-AZ 323)

WHYP (Providence)

- 04/29/02, 0238-0243, 6955U – sound loops. (ZR-AZ 333)
- 05/03/02, 0147, 6950A – mx – Beatles, "You put the Bomb on Me." WHYP/Bingo/UPMB mixture. (AF 433)(ZR-AZ 333)
- 05/04/02, 0106-0149, 6950A – "How to set up your own SW station." (MT-WI 233)
- 05/04/02, 0220-0325*, 6950A – mx – Elvis Costello. "Pirate Radio for the fun of it." An important message from CBC. Jay Smilkstein and Captain Ganja both make appearances. Changed straight over from WHYP to UPMB at 0234 with gun related music and musical parodies. Upcoming 3rd Annual Brownyard Memorial Croquet Tournament. (AF 523)(GZ-OH 343)(ZR-AZ 222)(JS-NE 433)
- 05/05/02, 0057-0200+, 6950A – "How to be a Pirate broadcaster," Alex Ashe Hemorrhoidal Cream, an interview with Captain Ron. George Zeller reports this as JBCN and reports a number of JBCN IDs during the show. First step in becoming a Pirate is to obtain John T. Arthur's permission to be active, then to lay in a good stock of drugs. Oh, and to get a maildrop from JTA! (AF 422)(GZ-OH 433)(ZR-AZ 233)
- 05/09/02, 0210-0330, 6950A – mx – Devo. Talk about Captain Ganja's graphics. (AF 534)(ZR-AZ 222)(JS-NE 222)
- 05/10/02, 0128-0134, 6951A – mx – rock. James is in good voice, Captain Ganja is heard. A clip of George Zeller speaking at a Monitoring Times convention is heard. Audio faded at 0134, carrier dropped 8 minutes later. (GZ-OH 242)(WT-MI 233)(Mark reported station on until 0234 with 80's program and "Pirate Radio for the fun of it!")
- 05/11/02, 0021-0146*, 6950A – mx – The Tubes. Promo for "This Old Pirate," "from the transmitters of WMOE." Clips of various Pirates. "Maharishi Charms" cereal. (AF 555)(GZ-OH 353)(WS-TN 333)(ZR-AZ 232)(WT-MI 122)
- 05/11/02, 0216-0229*, 6951A – a James Brownyard soliloquy on the subject of lake effect snow in Bradford, Pennsylvania. (RD-PA)
- 05/12/02, 0110-0131*, 6951A – mx – "I'm In A Daze," "Stone Soul Brother" and "I'm Too Sexy." (JS-NE 333)
- 05/16/02, 0040-0120*, 6951A – mx – the ineffable Jimmy Da Weasel sings one of his lil' numbers. Weather talk, dogwatching, Jay Smilkstein and Winterfest. (JS-NE 322)
- 05/16/02, 0259, 6955U – An interview with Jay. (WT-MI 122)
- 05/17/02, 0247-0323*, 6955A – more of Jay and Winterfest. Host states that reports sent to Providence will yield more QSLs than email. (JS-NE 222)

WMFQ (Providence)

- 05/19/02, 0052-0144, 6925A – mx – Beatles, Maria Muldaur. Providence drop given. (WS-TN 444)

WMOE (wmoe6955@yahoo.com)

- 04/27/02, 2259-0019*, 6924U – mx – Stooges theme tune. Stooge dialog inc. "One of us is nuts..." (????)
- 04/28/02, 0114-0120*, 6951A – mx – Blondie. Stooges sound clips and theme tune. (AF 433)

TENTATIVE/UNIDENTIFIED

Powerplay FM?

- 05/04/02, 1227-1240, 7450A – music and talk format. (MT-WI 131)

Sycko Radio?

- 05/01/02, 0229-0321+, 6955U – mx – songs about fornication, theme from "Fraggle Rock," "Pirate Song." Parody US West ad. (JS-NE 322)

UNID

- 04/20/02, 0522-0545, 6955U – very weak music, unidentifiable. (AF 232)
- 04/22/02, 0131, 6950U – mx heard. (ZR-AZ 221)
- 04/26/02, 0350-0354, 6955U – played but one song – Jerry Reed's "Eastbound and Down." (ZR-AZ 322)
- 04/27/02, 0135-0142, 6950U – high noise level, some kind of live concert? No ID. (AF 221)

- 04/27/02, 0308-0345, 6950L – "My Sweet Lord," "War Of The Worlds." (MT-WI 133)
- 04/28/02, 0231, 6950A – mx – country style – "El Paso." Maybe also 20's stuff. (AF 222)
- 05/02/02, 0304-0321, 6955U – OM talking about the phone company. Lily Tomlin "Ernestine" skit. (ZR-AZ 322)(Pse QSL JS-NE)
- 05/05/02, *0150-0248+, 6950A – mx – swing. Amos 'n Andy show with Jack Benny and Rochester as guests. Mention of Glenn Miller. Rinso ad. On immediately after WHYP so possibly him? No ID heard. (AF 534)(GZ-OH 433)(Pse QSL JS-NE 222)(MT-WI 132)
- 05/07/02, 0418-0438*, 6955U – very weak. Maybe a Nirvana tune? Possibly on again from 0524-0527. (AF 131)
- 05/09/02, 0025-0039, 6950U – mx - dance. No ID, no talk. (WT-MI 121)
- 05/10/02, 0135, 6955U – edited version of "Then I got High." (ZR-AZ 333)
- 05/11/02, 0157, 6950U – mx, faded out. (WT-MI 122)
- 05/18/02, 2108, 6925U – mx – a single Sade track. Possibly same station as noted on 4/27. (AF 232)
- 05/20/02, 0149-0225, 6955U – mx – rap. Cussing, "Hello Radio," 5 counts, a skit about Ray's record and not bringing your gun home and firing it outside. No IDs, some dead air. (Pse QSL WT-MI 233)

CONTRIBUTORS/PLEASE QSL

Rich D'Angelo, 2216 Burkey Drive, Wyomissing, PA 19610 (RD-PA)
 Al Fansome (AF)
 Bill Finn, Southeast, PA (BF-PA)
 John Sedlacek, 2728 North 45th Avenue, Omaha, NE 68104 (JS-NE)
 Woody Smith, P.O. Box 52823, Knoxville, TN 37950 (WS-TN)
 Mark Taylor, 1114 Ellen Avenue, Madison, WI 53716 (MT-WI)
 George Zeller, 3492 West 123rd Street, Cleveland, OH 44111 (GZ-OH)

TEN YEARS AFTER...

June of '92, ahhhh! Interestingly enough, some of the stations back then turned out to have legs, so to speak. Some of them are still active today or were active up until fairly recently. Appearing in Dialogs back then were WBNY, Jolly Roger Radio He Man Radio, Radio USA and East Coast Beer Drinker.

And a few contributors of logs today were doing the same back then – Jerry Coatsworth, Bill Hassig and the fab marvy George Zeller were all noted as being amongst the contributors that month.

The Kulpville Winterfest received mention in Pirate programming logs that month as did the (now extinct, alas!) "Pirate Radio Directory." The PRD was a fine publication that was produced on a yearly basis by Andy ("Who? Me?? Transmi??") Yoder and George Zeller. It was a comprehensive synopsis of the preceding year's Pirate activity and a valuable source of drop (and other) information.

RAMBLINGS

One suggestion on finding noise in the radio room – go buy yourself a halfway decent SW-capable portable radio – something like a Grundig YB-400 – when you hit noise on the main radio(s) you can then break out the portable, plug in the frequency where you're hearing it, and wander around with it listening to the noise and figuring out where it's coming from. You'll also have a new toy to listen with while you're on the road.

While we're on the subject of noise, one of the worst noise sources that I've found are (surprisingly) the high end UPSes (Uninterruptible Power Supplies.) They're worst on LF noise (down below 500kHz) but one that I recently picked up at a computer show (a rack mount APC 1400VA job) produces garbage in the 9MHz region that sounds just like the noise a television would generate... go figure – you can be blackout proof or you can listen to radio... just not both at the same time.

Runner-up in the noise generator category are wall warts. These are cheap, nasty and small switching power supplies and if you have three or four in the shack (I probably have a dozen or more) you can bet that at least one of them is doing it's best to make your radio listening miserable. Do as I'm doing, get a decent linear (not switching!) 12vdc power supply and use it to replace all those nasty little buzzers.

Regular contributor Zeke Russell is on the road for the Summer. New ACE member Mark Taylor has very kindly submitted some loggings – thanks! (Mark, I emailed you with some questions but I guess you don't check your mail too frequently?)

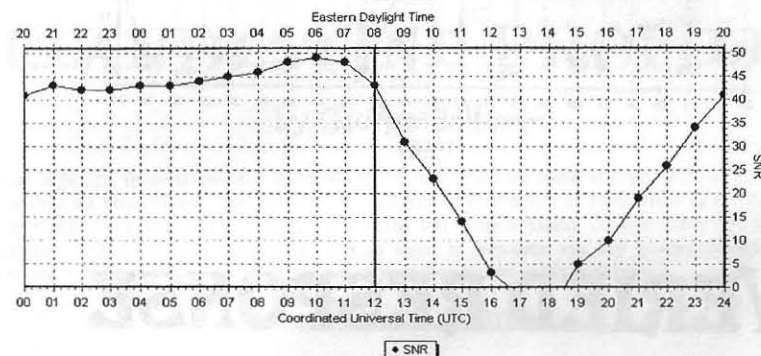
Interesting to see a number of new stations popping up this month.

PROPAGATION

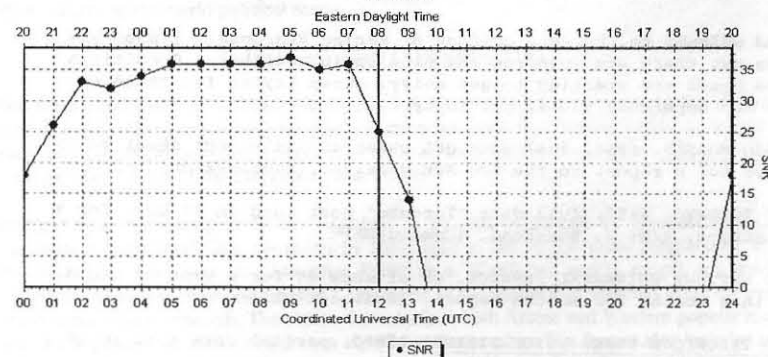
Well, I got the OS and software necessary to running the predictions reinstalled. Here are the results. All calculations are based on 6.90MHz and a transmitting station power output of 100W. As ever the basic rule to reading the charts is "the higher the line, the better the signal."

There are two times on the charts now – top one is local to the first of the two locations, bottom one is UTC – I'm experimenting with a new iteration of the software I use. So far it seems to do a good job and to be a tad more flexible than the old version.

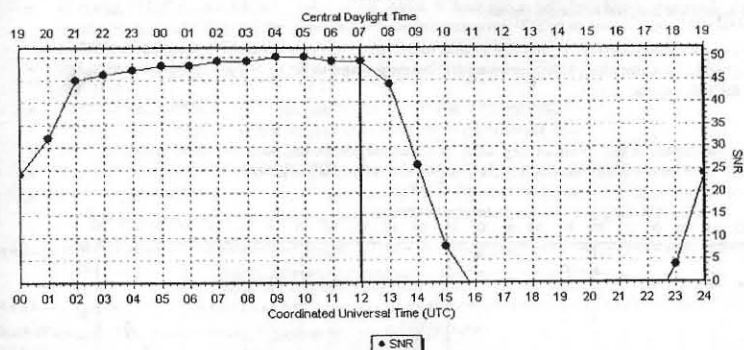
Philadelphia to W0 - Kansas City, USA, SP, Jun 2002, SSN: 91, Noise: Residential area
 Power: 100W, Min Angle: 0.1, Required Reliability: 90%, Required S/N: 44.0
 6.90 MHz



Philadelphia to W6 - Los Angeles, USA, SP, Jun 2002, SSN: 91, Noise: Residential area
 Power: 100W, Min Angle: 0.1, Required Reliability: 90%, Required S/N: 44.0
 6.90 MHz



Kansas City to W6 - Los Angeles, USA, SP, Jun 2002, SSN: 91, Noise: Residential area
Power: 100W, Min Angle: 0.1, Required Reliability: 90%, Required S/N: 44.0
6.90 MHz



VERIED RESPONSE

Chris Lobdell
Box 146
Stoneham, MA 02180
EMAIL: clobdell@mediaone.net

NEXT COLUMN DEADLINE: June 19th

Next month "The Free Radio Stats" will return, so please update your totals so they can be included.

Hi and welcome to the June edition of *Veried Response*. I hope all of you out there are enjoying the nice spring weather. Conditions on the bands are starting to get noisy. Keep trying for those pirates and hopefully you'll get lucky.

CAPTAIN MORGAN. 6950, Full data QSL sheet #6 [Silvi-OH] Sheet #8 in 12 days for a report to the FRN-ACE website. [Sedlacek-NE]

RADIO TORONTO. 6955, full data "Toronto" post card in 89 days for 3 mint stamps. V/S: J. Bonehead. [Comeau-MA]

RADIO NEPTUNE UNIVERSAL SERVICE. CD of show #9 for a tape of broadcast in 4 months for mailed report. [Sedlacek-NE]

RADIO VERONIQUE-TOWER-DUTCH PIRATE. 21890, partial data card in 27 days for an emailed report. [Comeau-MA]

UNITED PATRIOT MILITIA BINGO. QSL Sheet received for January and February 2002 logs. [Silvi-OH] Full data orange sheet featuring their antenna site, The Montano Militia, Alex Draper, etc. [Myers-FL]

VOICE OF THE NEW WORLD ORDER. Full data QSL sheet on front with NOW Fun Activities on reverse. Received in 5 days for an email report. [Sedlacek-NE]

WREKIN' RADIO INTERNATIONAL-ENGLISH? PIRATE. 12256, full data card in 39 days for \$2.00 from the Ytterby P.O. Box. Also received personal letter, info sheet, bumper sticker. [Comeau-MA]

Thanks to the following contributors: Ross Comeau-MA, Greg Myers-FL, John Sedlacek-NE, Lee Silvi-OH. I hope to hear from you for the next VR.

CLANDESTINE PROFILE

by George Zeller

Your loggings, information, and speculations about clandestine radio stations are always very welcome for this column. You can send them direct to your editor at 3492 West 123rd Street, Cleveland, Ohio 44111. Or, you can call (216) 941-3366 anytime, or else (216) 696-9077 between 1200-2100 UTC weekdays. E-mail input is welcome via my georgez@nacs.net address, with <http://www.nacs.net/~georgez> providing access to my web page.

NO AL-QUIDA CLANDESTINE

Although for some reason there has been almost no discussion of the issue in the DX press, it remains remarkable that the Al-Quida terrorist network has completely failed to develop a broadcasting strategy toward its main target in the United States. Ever since World War II there has always been either a licensed broadcaster and/or a clandestine station operated by all of the foes of the United States during time of war. This has not been the case this time. Although we are all familiar with the "press release" video interviews that Osama Bin Laden distributes to Arabic television networks on an erratic basis. Al-Quida has obviously decided that they don't need any broadcasting muscle that will reach North America.

It sounds like I'm stating the obvious here, but the fact that this is obvious is a completely new phenomenon on the world political scene.

RADIO SAWA NOT ON SHORTWAVE

The latest USA-based clandestine broadcaster has attracted almost no notice in the shortwave hobby, mainly because it is not transmitting on shortwave. But, **Radio Sawa** did attract the attention of the Newhouse News Service, so I rely on the Newhouse coverage of the new station from the May 5 issue of the *Cleveland Plain Dealer*.

Radio Sawa, translating as Radio Together, is an idea originated by Norman Pattiz, the chairman of Westwood One, identified by Newhouse as the largest radio programmer in the United States. Newhouse also identifies Pattiz as a "California media mogul and wealthy contributor to former President Clinton." The name of the station was selected using the results of extensive market research. The station format mixes both Arabic and Western popular music, with the hope that the music will draw a significant listenership. The format also includes news and commentary in Arabic, with the news taking a different slant than is available in the popular Arab press. A station slogan translates as "the new station for the new generation." The hope of station personnel is that the music will draw an audience, which will then be exposed to a diet of "news, editorials, roundtable discussions, and phone callers." Newhouse indicates that the Voice of America is involved in the station's production. Announcers on the station have been selected so that they sound like the local dialect in the area where the programming is

scheduled. Newhouse cites Voice of America Spokeswoman Joan Mower, who said, "It won't be like you're in New York listening to someone with an Alabama accent. You'll hear a New York accent."

The music format on the station is programmed in five different regions: Egypt, Iraq, Jordan/Palestine, Sudan, and a "Persian Gulf" area defined as Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.

Newhouse says that the station has been producing programming since March 23. It is broadcast on satellite transmitters of Nilesat, Arabsat and Eutelsat Hotbird, with ground-based placement on FM transmitters in Jordan and Kuwait. Newhouse says that the station has future plans for coverage on a dozen FM transmitters in the Middle East by September 2003, as well as a "handful" of medium wave frequencies that will of course propagate at a greater distance during darkness hours. There is no indication that any shortwave frequencies will be used for this service.

Newhouse gives credit to Norman Pattiz for the station philosophy that its format should be determined only after extensive market research is conducted, and also for its philosophy that its schedule should be "aggressive" with many hours per day of broadcasting and a wide network of MW and FM local transmitters. Any resident of the United States will recognize this format if they have been paying any attention at all to commercial radio. It is the same philosophy that some have concluded is the death knell for commercial FM radio when combined with the concentration of broadcast station ownership in a small handful of corporations. The resulting blandness among radio stations all over the USA is one of the motivating forces behind pirate radio broadcasting. But, for the corporations this system has been profitable. Now it is being applied to what approaches a "black" clandestine operation, with content being snuck into the listeners with glitzy packaging.

It is hard to say if this approach can be successful. Many radio hobbyists have observed over the years that programming at the Voice of America has always been inferior to other entities like the BBC and even AFRTS, simply because it is dry. Thus, an attempt to make VOA programming relevant to its listeners instead of a waste of multi-kilowatt transmitters could be a step in the right direction.

But, there is a potential downside to the effort. On various trips to Europe over the years I have observed that local FM broadcasting in places like Switzerland, Austria, Italy, and Germany has become almost indistinguishable from that broadcasting in New York or Chicago. The announcers are in German or Italian, depending upon the country, but the music format is the same one that is played by numerous stations in the USA. This Americanization of culture in Europe, also epitomized by the spread of McDonalds restaurants and Wal Marts, is generating a backlash in some European corners. As the influence of local culture declines relative to the influence of American culture, a resistance movement is emerging that attacks the trend. In an extreme form of this concept, I had the experience last November of driving down the Kandertal Road in the Alps between Frutigen and Spiez and flipping the medium wave dial in my car radio to see what I could pick up. I landed on an announcement, "This is Jack Ham from Cleveland Stadium, bringing you the Browns-Steelers game." I am quite certain that I was the only person in the Alps listening to the Browns-Steelers game on my car radio. Further investigation in the WRTS revealed that I was picking up the game from AFRTS in Germany. Jack Ham drove me nuts however, since his signal faded right at the end of the game when the Steelers kicked a last-second field goal to win the game. I had to wait until I returned to the USA to find out how this one came out.

But, if I tuned elsewhere on either medium wave or FM in Switzerland, I would have found that there are almost no stations carrying local yodeling country music that might make a better background car audio to the mountains visible outside my windshield. You can hear this situation for yourself by tuning in Radio Berner Oberland, the dominant FM radio station in the Alps from Interlaken, Switzerland, via its reliable RealAudio feed accessible from the station's <http://www.radiobeo.ch/> web site. The station jingle comes up when you access the web site, but you punch the "on air" microphone at the top to bring up the RealAudio feed. I'm not really

trying to discuss European radio here; I'm just raising the possibility that market research driven quasi-clandestine radio in the Middle East has a potential for backfiring as well as being successful, in a way that is not commonly understood in the United States.

WHAT IS A CLANDESTINE?

One of the more pointless arguments in the DX hobby resurfaced in April: the question of "what is a clandestine." Actually this issue is worth mentioning from time to time, especially for new members of the Association of Clandestine radio Enthusiasts. Most ACE members are attracted to our club because of its comprehensive coverage of shortwave pirate broadcasters. But, traditionally the club has also devoted space in its newsletter to other types of unusual and unlicensed broadcasting. Pirate stations rarely create discussions about categories or nomenclature. People who transmit radio programming for entertainment purposes without first acquiring a license from broadcasting authorities in a country are easy to slip into the "pirate" category. Other unlicensed broadcasts are more difficult to classify, including the "spy" numbers broadcasts and other unusual transmissions that are lumped into Tom Severt's "Covert Comms" column. The residual "Clandestine" category that normally makes up the content of this "Clandestine Profile" column is distinguished from pirate radio by the fact that clandestines are operated for political purposes with a goal of creating political system change in a country targeted by the broadcaster. Plenty of ink has been applied to paper over the years trying to define precisely what a "clandestine" broadcaster is. Most of that ink has boiled down to the same attitude expressed in the past by the USA Supreme Court about pornography. That well known argument maintains that it is difficult to precisely define in words what "pornography" is, but that you and I will certainly be able to know it when we see it.

A recent example of this issue emerged as a result of the KSMR broadcasts from Steve Anderson in Kentucky. It didn't take long for some DXers to start a dialog about whether Anderson's shows were pirate or clandestine broadcasts. Given the fact that the station was associated with the Kentucky State Militia, many felt that it was obvious that the station was a clandestine and not a pirate. But, given Anderson's off-again on-again relationship with this militia group, some DXers felt that if the Militia was not the sponsor of the group, the station was then just a pirate operated by Anderson. Regular readers will recall that we never took that position here in the Clandestine Profile column.

Hans Johnson touched off this debate once again during April in *Cumbre DX* when he said, "I see a disturbing trend in some publications that label programs as clandestine when they are clearly not. There are varying degrees of what folks consider to be a clandestine station. But the fact that a program purchases airtime and is directed to a certain region does not make it a clandestine. The most widespread example is Payam-e-Dooost (Radio Bahai), but there are others. The Bahai are a religious group with a program directed to Iran. But purchasing airtime + broadcasts in Farsi + non-government program doesn't automatically = clandestine. DXers and publications should take the time to examine programs before labeling them as clandestine. In many cases, we will not understand what a program is saying and it will be difficult. That is where the web come in handy as much of the information here will be in English. Even simple searches will often lead to background data on whose (sic) behind a program and what their objectives are. That certainly is the case with Radio Bahai." We thank *Clandestine Radio Watch* #104 for the transcription of Hans' remarks in *Cumbre DX*, which *CRW* got via DXLD #2-065.

As I mentioned at the beginning of this section, this is hardly the most worthy debate of the last ten years. But, since people raise this issue from time to time, it is of enough significance that we are discussing the issue here. Glenn Hauser quickly pointed out that in his publications and radio shows he avoids the issue by labeling clandestine broadcasts under their target country with the prefix (non). Martin Schoech's response to the issue in *CRW* #104 was, "CRW avoids to 'label' anything as 'Clandestine' or 'not Clandestine.'" Most times we do not even know enough to be sure about the status of a station. And I personally do not care about these definitions that make up a "Clandestine." *CRW* reports about all stations which are of interest in the broad field of the "Clandestine Radio" and "Clandestine Radio related" scene, regardless of the "official status" of that station. If a station is mentioned in *CR* id does not mean that we

think, it is a Clandestine Radio Station. It only means, the origin or the contents or the history of a station is interesting enough to report about it. Instead of 'CRW' we could call this newsletter even "Watching Media Freedom on Shortwave."

Martin's remarks are well taken, and are quite similar to the approach that ACE has taken for many years. That ought to put this minor issue to bed for a while, until some nomenclature purist digs it up again, for some unknown reason.

THANKS!

The input of ACE members and other DXers is vitally important to this column, and to all other ACE columns. We thank Martin Schoech (Germany), Bud Stacy (Alabama), Hans Johnson (QTH not provided), and George Zeller (Ohio) for providing material. Next month we all hope to hear from **YOU** by June 15 for the July 2002 *Clandestine Profile*.



Covert Comms

By Tom Sevalt

307 Granby
Frontenac, KS 66763-2440
n2uhc@yahoo.com

Recently the "New Star" V13 Chinese language station has been following their regular numbers broadcasts with a female reading some commentary in Chinese, followed by a musical interlude. The commentary and music lasts for about fifteen minutes after the end of the numbers broadcasts. I had heard this several times, but not being able to speak Chinese, couldn't make out what was being said. However, I did make out what sounded like an email address being given.

A post to the Spooks email list recently shed some light on the announcement. The post stated that a Mr. Toru Yamashita of the Asian Broadcasting Institute says that the message is a request for listeners to send letters to them either via email or regular mail. The email address is w2789@hotmail.com, and the postal address is P.O. Box 12587, Taipei, Taiwan. Mr. Yamashita reportedly sent an email to the station and received a reply.

I guess we don't need any more proof that this station is located on Taiwan, as had been generally believed.

What is interesting is that this station has been sending encoded messages for years, and now they are requesting letters from listeners. It makes me wonder who they think is listening? Are they interested in hearing from their own spies, Chinese intelligence, or us numbers listeners? I doubt anyone else ever pays much attention to this station. Could it be an attempt to appear legitimate? Doubtful, since Chinese intelligence and other intelligence agencies are surely aware of what the station is used for. The station is also not on any ITU allocated frequencies.

It also makes me wonder if they will send out QSL's. OLX from Czechoslovakia used to send out QSL's for reception reports sent to the mailing address listed for it in old ITU lists, so it's certainly unusual but not impossible to QSL a spy numbers station.

I'm planning an experiment to try to QSL New Star, and even see if they will answer a few questions for this column. I'm optimistic that they will reply, but doubtful they will answer all the questions I can think of asking them. The results will follow in a future column.

New Star is active daily almost every half hour on the following frequencies: 8300, 8375, 9725, 11430, 13750, and 15388. I usually can only hear the station on 8300 and 13750. The best times to catch the station here in North America is from around 1000-1400 UTC.

The New Star numbers station is a favorite of mine because it is the first numbers station I ever heard. I used to hear it all the time while at Clark Air Base in the Philippines back in 1990-1991. At the time I knew what numbers stations were, but didn't realize that I was

hearing one. I only heard it on 8300 kHz, and it always had a very strong signal with an antenna beamed north.

If you QSL New Star, or even send them an email and get a reply, I'd like to hear from you. Please let me know what they say, and I'll share it here in this column.

RANDOM TRANSMISSIONS

by Frederick Moe

36 West Main Street
Warner NH 03278
singinggrove@conknet.com

Hello and welcome to the June 2002 edition of Random Transmissions, the ACE column that highlights pirate radio stations past and present and explores the diversity of free radio broadcasts available to shortwave listeners.

KMUD began broadcasting in 1985 - definitely one for the record books - and still remains an elusive mystery for many of us in the eastern and central US. KMUD originates from somewhere in the Californian desert, with a vintage 1944 TCS-13 Navy ship transmitter that cranks 25 to 30 watts AM.

KMUD generally plays an esoteric mix of music with a diverse playlist. Loggings from several KMUD broadcasts published in the May 2002 ACE alone mentioned electronica, space, instrumental music and the Firesign Theater! Reports over the past 18 months show there are KMUD listeners from all over California, Arizona, Oregon, Idaho, Colorado, Washington state, Wyoming, Alberta, Illinois, and Nevada.

The KMUD operator maintains an excellent and informative web site at <http://www.qnet.com/~vlfradio/kmud.htm>. There are beautiful photographs of the Realm of Inyo County, California and the incredible desert environment. There are also pictures of the transmitter & transmitter site, beacons and antennas, interesting technical information and some links to other cool web-sites. KMUD has one of the two most comprehensive US pirate radio web pages I've seen (the other being KIPM).

Although KMUD usually transmits between the 6930 and 6955 frequency region, the operator reports considering dropping down to the 6880 - 6900 neighborhood to avoid QRM with other stations. Reception reports are welcome to the FRN website and POB 928, Lone Pine, CA 93545. The operator states they're a bit slow to QSL but please be patient and they will get them out.

If you have a favorite free radio station that you would like discussed in this column, or have any comments to share, please contact me with your thoughts and ideas. I would appreciate hearing from you by postal mail or e-mail. Until next time . turn off the television & tune into your imagination.

Join the ACE Pirate Radio Mailing List!

The ACE Pirate Radio Mailing List is a free e-mail list moderated by ACE publisher Harry Helms. Exchange pirate radio DX tips, discuss people and personalities, get advance notice of pirate operations! To join, just send a BLANK e-mail to:

PirateRadio-subscribe@topica.com

Electronic Dominoes

Continued from page 46

the appeal of the dominoes. It's hard to imagine any other means by which you could get across these basic concepts so quickly and so vividly. The fact that kids can put the parts in place themselves and see immediate results from their efforts beats fussing with Fahnestock clips and interconnecting wires all hollow—to say nothing of messing with soldering irons.

All this is fine in the school room. Home-bodies may have reservations about the cost, however. A basic starter kit, the Mini Lectron, having pretty limited capabilities, is expected to sell for \$19.50. While the way will be eased to bigger and better things by the availability of individual blister-packed add-on units, cost of a full set like the one we had will probably be \$128. Two intermediate sets also are planned.

Still, considering the way the Lectron can put across ideas (even to our five-year-old, who corrected a mistake of his father's after only ten minutes with the darn thing), it's got to be one of the grandest educational toys, ever.—Elmer Carlson—

Radio Americas and the CIA

Continued from page 29

ganda tool going for you in a trouble area. The \$3 million that has been sunk into RA over a seven-year period would keep the Defense Department (with a 1966 budget of almost \$56 billion) going for only half an hour. But reports from Cubans now living in Miami suggest that its effectiveness is meager.

Two things should be considered when evaluating the appeal of the station. First, RA pumps out an unending stream of hard-core anti-Castro propaganda. Second, Cubans tend to be a lighthearted people with a festive approach to life, a quick sophisticated sense of humor and a love of music and dancing. The average Cuban has to put up with endless hard-sell politics from his own government, though. So he has little interest in spending his leisure listening to more of the same.

In fact, Cubans pass up listening to RA (it's illegal to listen, anyway) in preference to the soft-sell VOA station in Marathon, Fla., which operates in Spanish only a few

kc from the RA frequency. But there are avid RA listeners in Central and South America. There, it seems, listeners figure that if the U.S. is spending so much money to combat Castro he must be greater and more important to Latin America than it would otherwise appear!

The CIA feeling is now assumed to be that, realizing the failure of the RA concept, they must take a new approach. There appear to be several possibilities. One currently being speculated on is that RA may withdraw from Swan Island and combine forces with the mysterious station calling itself R. Libertad, La Voz Anti-Comunista de America. R. Libertad broadcasts from a carefully concealed location in or near the Bahamas or Lesser Antilles. The speculators have singled out Great Inagua and Andros in the Bahamas and a site in Venezuela as prime candidates.

Ties between the two operations are suggested by recent events, one of them concerning Roger Butts, one of the people who put the original R. Swan transmitter on the air and who stuck with the operation until recently. Although he has been listed as a salesman for the W.R. Maddux real estate outfit they say he is no longer employed there. The RA office confirms his employment until a few months ago.

Following the quiet disappearance of Butts from the Miami area the RA short-wave signal suddenly vanished from the air, and RA announced that the equipment was being repaired. Speculation is that both Butts and the missing RA transmitter have been relocated in preparation for the new operation. And R. Libertad recently has been logged on the former RA frequency.

Some of the people I spoke to feel that the entire idea of RA will be dumped altogether without any attempt to combine it with R. Libertad. They say that the station may be dismantled and the idea abandoned by the end of this year.

Why did it take seven years and \$3 million to realize the failure of RA? Why was it established as a black operation rather than one out in the open (especially after its participation in the CIA's Bay of Pigs invasion)? What is the CIA's connection with the top secret R. Libertad? These are some of the questions that remain to be answered.

One answer came through loud and clear. Radio Americas may well be the propaganda faux pas of the century.—

Electronics Illustrated

Another Blast From The Past!

New Pirate Broadcaster

There's more than oil in off-shore operations for avid DX'ers

By Tom Kneitel, K3FLL/WB2AAI

British DX'er D. C. Brightman, of Wolverton, Bucks, England, was the first to report on signals from the newest shipboard "pirate" broadcaster to RADIO-TV EXPERIMENTER.

Mr. Brightman was monitoring the broadcast band with his Geloso G-209R receiver when he first heard the station, "Radio Caroline" a few months ago. The frequency was 1500 kc/s, and the programming consisted of 12 hours of music. According to "Radio Caroline's" announcer, the station was aboard a ship which was anchored 9 miles off the coast of Essex, England.

"Pirate" broadcasters are, as you may know, unlicensed radio stations which beam their signals into countries which do not permit commercial broadcasting. The "pirates" sell commercial advertising time to companies who wish to sell their products in these countries—and since the stations are located in international waters, it is frequently difficult for the "trespassed" nation to rid themselves of their unwanted, and unlicensed, sea-board voice.

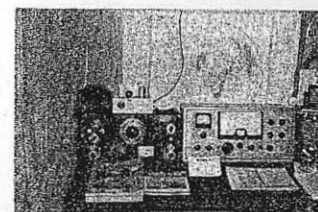
On 1500 kc/s. But the situation goes deeper than broadcasting commercial jingles into a country which doesn't permit such things. In the particular case of "Radio Caroline," the British Coast Guard became upset because they claim that "Radio Caroline" is broadcasting on a frequency which is used for communications with lightships. This charge was promptly denied by a "Radio

Caroline" spokesman, who stated that their frequency is "not used by anyone else." A check of the DX Central records, however, indicated that 1500 kc/s is shared with at least 30 other legitimate broadcasters from Australia to The Volcano Island, and this is to say nothing of the countless North American stations on the channel. In addition, "Radio Caroline" operates on a frequency which is capable of jamming adjacent frequency broadcasters in Portugal, Germany, and Spain.

International Action. Eventually the British government had all it could take from "Radio Caroline" and requested the International Telecommunications Union (an agency of the United Nations) to see what they could do to silence the station. The British told the ITU that the station is using two ten-thousand watt transmitters and is located aboard the S.S. Caroline, a converted passenger vessel flying the Panamanian flag.

The ITU will now communicate with the Panamanian government to remind them that there is an international agreement which does not permit broadcasting from ships or aircraft in international waters. In previous situations of a similar nature, the ITU was successful in having the Panamanian government withdraw their flags from ships broadcasting off the Dutch and Danish coasts.

Will it work this time? Eventually it will, but chances are that "Radio Caroline" will be silenced only to be replaced by another in the long line of "pirates" which have been providing juicy tidbits for DX'ers for many years.



Monitoring station operated by D. C. Brightman, Wolverton, Bucks, England. Receiver on left is a National HRO-5T, on the right is a Geloso G-209R. This is the equipment used to monitor clandestine Radio Caroline.

AUGUST, 1964

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The final page of our reprint of "Radio Americas and the CIA" by Tom Kneitel, which originally appeared in the September, 1967 issue of the now-defunct Electronics Illustrated magazine. In many ways, Radio Americas was the ultimate clandestine station; I expect to never see another clandestine broadcaster like it!

BTW, a QSL from Radio Americas was recently auctioned on eBay (item #2107511331) sold for a winning bid of \$358.52! At this rate, George Zeller will retire a millionaire!

the ASSOCIATION of CLANDESTINE radio ENTHUSIASTS

PO Box 1, Belfast, New York 14711-0001

The A*C*E is an association of individuals who find pirate, clandestine and covert communications an interesting part of their radio listening hobby. The primary existence of the club revolves around the publication of a monthly bulletin, The A*C*E. The bulletin reports on pirate, clandestine, covert and other unexplained broadcasts. Also, the readers are provided with other available material concerning motives, explanations and the theories behind these various broadcasts and broadcasters. The ACE as an organization, does not encourage, support or condone any illegal activity; we simply seek to understand the nature and reasoning behind such broadcasts. If your interests include listening to pirate radio stations, clandestine broadcasts and covert communications, The A*C*E is for you!!

All subscriptions, renewals, and queries regarding subscriptions should be sent to the above club address. Contributions for each editor should be sent to their own given addresses.

ACE Hdq/subscriptions.....John T. Arthur <jtart@localnet.com>
Publisher.....Harry Helms, PO Box 335, Ridgecrest, CA 93556-0335

Our Editors...

Dialogs.....Lee Reynolds, 53 Unity Springs Rd, Lempster, NH 03605-3130
Veried Response.....Chris Lobdell, PO Box 146, Stoneham, MA 02180-0146
Clandestine Profile.....George Zeller, 3492 W 123rd Street, Cleveland, OH 44111-3553

Feature Editors...

Covert Comms.....Tom Sevart, 307 Granby Street, Frontenac, KS 66763-2440
Micro-casting.....Bud Stacey, PO Box 907, Satsuma, AL 36572-0907

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